

they had not been trained on their role in their railroad's Emergency Action or Emergency Response Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with these reports, as well as the goals of the National Rail Symposium, given the importance of providing our rail workers with adequate emergency, anti-terrorism, and security training. For this reason, I have also urged my colleagues to adopt H.R. 4372, the Rail Worker Emergency Training Act, which I have introduced in the 109th Congress. This bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop comprehensive rail worker training guidelines that address several key areas, including critical infrastructure and equipment security inspection, hazardous material storage, transport, and monitoring, and evacuation procedures. In addition, the bill would require rail carriers to develop a rail worker training program based on the Secretary's guidelines and to train all of their workers within 1 year.

In closing, I would like to commend Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc. and the National Labor College for their efforts to heighten security and preparedness on our Nation's railways.

TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN WHITEFIELD

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Whitefield, successful attorney, dedicated father, tremendous leader, and tireless advocate for agricultural development throughout Oklahoma and the Nation.

A native of Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, Justin Whitefield attended Oklahoma State University, earning a degree in Business, excelling in his studies and regularly recognized for his campus-wide leadership. Later attending the University of Oklahoma Law School, Justin Whitefield earned his Jurist Doctorate, repeating his academic excellence and class leadership.

Throughout his career Justin Whitefield was a forward thinking individual, helping better the community through his dedication to helping others and his commitment to youth and agriculture. Examples of his initiatives and contributions are the growth of scholarship programs through the Oklahoma Youth Expo to young people, the development and implementation of collegiate programs such as the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Encounter program, and the Oklahoma Youth Expo College 101 and the Academic All State Scholarship Program. While his primary focus was to bring recognition to others by honoring individuals through the Oklahoma Youth Expo Exhibitor Hall of Fame, he was also progressive in his ideas for events such as the Western Art Exhibition, the Master Showmanship Contest and the Cattle Fitting Contest.

In his most recent assignment as Executive Director of Oklahoma Youth Expo, Justin Whitefield's accomplishments were far-reaching. Prior to joining Oklahoma Youth Expo, he served as General Counsel for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, served as an Attorney specializing in Government Relations for Derryberry, Quigley, Solomon and Naifeh Law Firm and served as President and Chief Lobbyist for Capital Resource Group.

As a result of an airplane accident, Justin Whitefield lost his life on November 4, 2006. He was not only a leader in Oklahoma, but he was my friend. We worked together during my service in the Oklahoma Legislature. I always found him to be a man of character, faith, and honor. We will truly miss him.

I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to thank him for his contributions to others, specifically the young people of Oklahoma.

USS "OKLAHOMA"

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the groundbreaking of a memorial to the USS *Oklahoma*, which sank 65 years ago today in the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Commissioned in 1916, the 583-foot USS *Oklahoma* escorted President Woodrow Wilson to and from France at the conclusion of World War I. She served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets through the 1920s and 1930s, and when the Spanish Civil War erupted in 1936, she steamed to Bilbao to ferry American citizens to safety in Gibraltar and French ports. One year and a day before the Japanese attack, the *Oklahoma* was assigned to Pearl Harbor.

The casualties aboard the USS *Oklahoma* represent the second-largest loss of life aboard any Pearl Harbor ship. Yet neither memorial nor marker exists to commemorate her and her crew. With today's groundbreaking at Pearl Harbor, we mark a significant step toward the creation of a lasting memorial to honor the 429 sailors, officers and Marines who perished on the "Okie," many of whom until 2002 rested in unmarked mass graves.

I am proud to have worked with Congressman COLE and the other members of the Armed Services Committee to pass language in the 2005 Defense Authorization Act providing a site for the memorial. But the real credit for making this project a reality goes to the *Oklahoma's* remaining survivors, the people of the State of *Oklahoma* and the USS *Oklahoma* Memorial Committee, which is raising private funds for the memorial.

I hope that this long-overdue tribute provides some comfort to the *Oklahoma's* survivors and their families, knowing that their sacrifices that day will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise to add my voice in tribute to retiring Chairman MIKE OXLEY.

Today is a sad day for me. Though I haven't known him nearly as long as my fellow colleagues from Ohio, I, too, will miss our Coach.

I use that word not just as a tribute to his years of Congressional baseball and basket-

ball dominance. I call Chairman OXLEY my Coach because that is what he has been to so many of us. Chairman OXLEY has been a model of public service since graduating from the Ohio State University School of Law in 1969. Coach OXLEY has been legislating for over 30 years and he has always been kind enough to help others learn the ropes. He has taken me and literally hundreds like me by the hand and guided us through the legislative process.

A kindness that I will never be able to repay.

Coach OXLEY, we will miss you in the halls of this great institution. I will miss your counsel and will be forever disappointed that you retired before the long hotly debated issue over which Member from Ohio has the lowest handicap was completely resolved. However, I trust that future coaching sessions will be available by phone.

Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, to you and your family.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SGT. FIRST CLASS WILLIAM R. BROWN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. November 6, 2006, Army Sgt. First Class William R. Brown (1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group) was killed in the line of duty when a roadside improvised bomb exploded near his Humvee vehicle in Sperwan-Gar, Afghanistan, which is part of the Panjwayi District of Kandahar. He was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Brown enlisted in the Army in June 1994, 2 weeks after graduating high school.

Sgt. Brown's family and friends remember him as a person with integrity and a strong desire to service his country through a career in the military. He is also remembered for his devotion to his wife, Audra, and two children.

A native of White Settlement, Texas, Sgt. Brown graduated from Brewer High School and began Army basic training 2 weeks later at Fort Benning, Georgia. His first assignment was with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. With that unit, he rose to the rank of squad leader and operations sergeant. After serving 7 years with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Sgt. Brown was transferred to Dallas, Texas, where he was an Army recruiter for 2 years.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Sgt. Brown decided to join the Army's elite Special Forces. In 2004, he completed the rigorous Special Forces Qualification Course and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Air Borne) which is based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After becoming a Special Forces member, he served with great distinction and valor one tour of duty in Iraq and was on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was killed. Sgt. Brown volunteered for both tours of duty in Afghanistan.

During his career, Sgt. Brown earned the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, an Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, a Meritorious Service